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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the benefits furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certain individuals who served in the forces of the Philippines and the Philippine Scouts.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MULLIN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the benefits furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certain individuals who served in the forces of the Philippines and the Philippine Scouts.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Filipino Veterans Fair-
5 ness Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENT OF VETERANS BENEFITS FUR-**
2 **NISHED TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS WHO**
3 **SERVED IN THE FORCES OF THE PHIL-**
4 **IPPINES AND THE PHILIPPINE SCOUTS.**

5 (a) EXPANSION OF BENEFITS.—Section 107 of title
6 38, United States Code, is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)—

8 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “; and”
9 and inserting a semicolon;

10 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking the pe-
11 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

12 (C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the
13 following new paragraph:

14 “(4) sections 1541 and 1542 of this title.”; and

15 (2) in subsection (b)—

16 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “; and”
17 and inserting a semicolon;

18 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-
19 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

20 (C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
21 following new paragraph:

22 “(3) sections 1541 and 1542 of this title.”; and

23 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—Such section is further amended
24 by adding at the end the following new subsections:

25 “(e) DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—(1) In de-
26 termining the eligibility of the service of an individual

1 under this section, the Secretary shall take into account
2 any alternative documentation regarding such service, in-
3 cluding documentation other than the recognized guerrilla
4 rosters stored at the National Personnel Records Center,
5 that the Secretary determines relevant.

6 “(2) Not later than March 1 of each year, the Sec-
7 retary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs
8 of the Senate and House of Representatives a report that
9 includes—

10 “(A) the number of individuals applying for
11 benefits pursuant to this section during the previous
12 year; and

13 “(B) the number of such individuals that the
14 Secretary approved for benefits.

15 “(f) RELATION TO FILIPINO VETERANS EQUITY
16 COMPENSATION FUND.—Section 1002(h) of the American
17 Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (title X of divi-
18 sion A of Public Law 111–5; 123 Stat. 200; 38 U.S.C.
19 107 note) shall not apply to an individual described in sub-
20 section (a) or (b) of this section.”.

21 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by
23 this section shall take effect on the date that is 270
24 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

1 (2) APPLICABILITY.—No benefits shall accrue
2 to any person for any period before the effective date
3 of this Act by reason of the amendments made by
4 this section.